

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02391 071351Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 071325Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3131

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2391

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, KU, IZ

SUBJ: KUWAIT/IRAQ BOUNDARY DISPUTE

REF: KUWAIT 2321

1. PROGRESS TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF THE LONG-STANDING BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN KUWAIT AND IRAQ REMAINS MURKY DESPITE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS JUNE 7 THAT A SOLUTION HAS BEEN FOUND THROUGH ALGERIAN/SAUDI/EGYPTIAN INTERMEDIARIES AND WILL BE ANNOUNDED SHORTLY. RUMORED DECISION BY GOK CABINET TO REOPEN BORDER TO KUWAITI NATIONALS HAS FUELED SPECULATION. (BORDER WAS CLOSED IN MARCH 1973, FOLLOWING SKIRMISH BETWEEN ARMED FORCES TWO COUNTRIES. IRAQ SOON LIFTED BAN ON ITS NATIONALS CROSSING BORDER BUT KUWAIT HAS CONTINUED BAN ITS NATIONALS FROM TRAVEL TO IRAQ EXCEPT UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES). EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT JUNE 7 REGARDING LIFTING OF BAN APPARENTLY FAILED TO MATERIALIZE ACCORDING LATE REPORTS RECEIVED BY EMBASSY.

2. CHARGE DISCUSSED IRAQI BORDER PROBLEM EARLY JUNE 7 WITH
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02391 071351Z

ESSA AL-HAMAD, DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT GOK FOREIGN

MINISTRY. LATTER DENIED SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED STATING GOI CONTINUED TO PRESS (THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES) FOR KUWAITI LAND ADJACENT TO UMM QSAR. GOK ALREADY HAD CONCEDED MAXIMUM POSSIBLE (REFTEL) AND UNABLE TO ACCEPT MOST RECENT GOK FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ITS COMMUNICATIONS OR DISPLAY REAL COMMITMENT TO RESOLUTION BORDER PROBLEMS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE CITED TWO LETTERS RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM GOK MINISTRY TRANSPORTATION PROPOSING RAILROAD AND MAJOR HIGHWAY BE CONSTRUCTED THROUGH KUWAIT TO DHAHRAN. ACCORDING AL-HAMAD, GOK IMMEDIATELY HAD PROVIDED FAVORABLE RESPONSE, BUT GOI HAS IGNORED SUGGESTIONS TWO SIDES MEET TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS. HE SAID SIMILAR REACTION HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM GOI SIDE WHEN KUWAIT PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF EXPANDED TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ.

3. ACCORDING AL-HAMAD, KUWAITI CABINET HAS BEEN STUDYING LIFTING BAN ON TRAVEL KUWAIT NATIONALS TO IRAQ. HE UNCERTAIN OF STATUS CABINET CONSIDERATION, BUT BELIEVED NO EARLY ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN DESPITE PRESS SPECULATION.
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